

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**F A C T   S H E E T**

**APPROVAL OF A NEW DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ENTITY  
AGREEMENT WITH FLORENCE CRITTENTON SERVICES OF ORANGE  
COUNTY, INC., DBA CRITTENTON SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2003-2004, 2004-2005 AND 2005-2006**

**(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**REQUEST:**

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health to prepare, sign, and execute a new Department of Mental Health (DMH) Legal Entity Agreement with Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County, Inc., dba Crittenton Services for Children and Families for Fiscal Years (FY) 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, in which the Maximum Contract Amount is \$1,750,000 annually to provide enhanced mental health services to severely emotionally disturbed (SED) children and adolescents.

**CONTRACTOR:**

Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County, Inc. is a fully licensed, 112-bed, Rate Classification Level (RCL) 12 residential group home program with three campuses in total. They specialize in delivery of a range of mental health, and substance abuse treatment of seriously emotionally disturbed youth 6-19 years of age who are dependents of Department of Children and Family Services, and wards of the Probation department. Their locations are as follows:

- It is headquartered at 801 E. Chapman, Suite 200 Fullerton, CA 92831, which is also the site of the 12-bed residential unit and counseling center for pre-adolescent girls; and
- The Valley View Campus, located at 100 Valley View, Fullerton, CA 92832 consists of a counseling center, four residential cottages, and an adjacent shared housing transitional services program serving 64 adolescent females, half of which are pregnant or parenting; and
- The third campus is the Harbor Campus, located at 600-604 N. Harbor Boulevard, Fullerton, CA 92832. It consists of two cottages serving pre-adolescent boys and a 24-bed residential unit for young adolescent females.

**INTENT:**

Approval for the above action is requested to ensure that SED children and adolescents of Los Angeles County continue to receive the full compliment of services to facilitate family reunification and/or placement in a less restrictive level of care. Additionally, this will enable Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County, Inc. to make a smooth transition from the current subcontract Agreement with County of Orange Health Care Agency (COHCA) to a direct Agreement with DMH. COHCA will not renew the existing Agreement with DMH and plans to let it expire on June 30, 2003, as a termination for convenience.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

COHCA is the current contractor and intermediary for mental health services, and has notified DMH and Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County, Inc. of their intention to not renew their current Agreement with DMH, which expires June 30, 2003. The new recommended action of a direct contract with Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County, Inc would ensure uninterrupted delivery of specialized mental health services to a high-risk population of SED minors, including pregnant and parenting minors who would otherwise be difficult to place in programs in Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles County's Agreement with Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County, Inc. provides an additional option for its children and adolescents to receive the necessary care when the RCL 12 group homes in our own geographic region become overcrowded and/or contain long waiting lists causing unnecessary delays in care.

In an effort to provide all Los Angeles County minors in need of both RCL 12 placement and mental health services the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department sought out group home programs that were equipped to deliver specialized mental health services that addressed the unique and individualized needs of these minors. As programs geographically located in Los Angeles County have consistently remained filled at or near capacity for years, DCFS and Probation had to go outside their own geographic regions to secure residential treatment resources for minors.

Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County, Inc. is one of only a few programs in southern California that serves SED pregnant and parenting youth and their child(ren) in a comprehensive residential treatment program. Over 79% of the youth placed in their program are placed by Los Angeles County Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation. Many of these youth also have concurrent substance abuse problems.

**CONTRACTING PROCESS:**

Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County, Inc., a uniquely qualified contractor, has been providing comprehensive mental health services to Los Angeles County SED minors since FY 2000-2001 through a subcontract arrangement with COHCA, as adopted by both Counties' Board of Supervisors, Orange and Los Angeles. The County of Los Angeles Board adoption date for the approval of that recommended action was October 10, 2000.

Since the inception of that Agreement, COHCA had monitored the level of service provided by Florence Crittenton of Orange County, Inc. and DMH confirmed that the level of mental health services provided was of high quality. Further, the contractor had continually demonstrated a commitment to serving the Los Angeles County minors. The current recommended actions to the Board will convert the subcontractual relationship of Florence Crittenton Services of Orange County, Inc. and COHCA who then contracted with DMH, to a direct contractual relationship between Florence Crittenton of Orange County, Inc. and DMH.